

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Tanaka

Serial No. (not assigned)

Examiner (not assigned)

Filed concurrently herewith

Art Unit (not assigned)

For SCHEDULING SYSTEM AND SCHEDULING METHOD FOR
THE SAME

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee, Applicant wishes to amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 16, 20, 22, and 23 as follows (a marked up version of claim 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 16, 20, 22 and 23 being appended hereto):

4. The scheduling system according to claim 2, wherein the number of slots in the time slot and the PCR value of each of the lines each are a value obtained by raising "2" to the n th power, wherein n is a non-negative integer.
6. The scheduling system according to claim 2, wherein the schedule computation means performs a function such that, upon the cancellation of the setting of a line from the elements in the cell read sequence management table, if another line having a smaller PCR value than said line is in the state of being set to a position behind the position to which the said line has been set, the set position of said another line is

moved to the position from which the setting of said line has been cancelled.

7. The scheduling system according to claim 2, wherein the schedule computation means performs a function such that, upon the cancellation of the setting of a line from the elements in the cell read sequence management table, if other lines having a smaller PCR value than said line are in the state of being set to positions behind the position to which said line has been set, the set position of one line, which has the largest PCR value in said other lines and is located in the rearmost position of said other lines, is moved to the position from which the setting of said line has been cancelled.

8. The scheduling system according to claim 1, wherein said line is an ATM line.

12. The scheduling method according to claim 10, wherein the number of slots in the time slot and the PCR value of each of the lines each are a value obtained by raising "2" to the nth power, wherein n is a non-negative integer.

14. The scheduling method according to claim 10 wherein, upon the cancellation of the setting of a line from the elements in the cell read sequence management table, if another line having a smaller PCR value than said line is in the state of being set to a position behind the position to which the said line has been set, the set position of said another line is moved to the position from which setting of said line has been cancelled.

15. The scheduling method according to claim 10 wherein, upon the cancellation of the setting of a line from the elements in the cell read sequence management table, if other lines having a smaller PCR value than said line are in the state of being set to positions behind the position to which the said line has been set, the set position of one line, which has the largest PCR value in said other lines and is located in the rearmost position of said other lines, is moved to the position from which the setting of said line

has been cancelled.

16. The scheduling method according to claim 9, wherein said line is an ATM line.

20. The ATM switch according to claim 18, wherein the number of slots in the time slot and the PCR value of each of the ATM lines each are a value obtained by raising "2" to the nth power, wherein n is a non-negative integer.

22. The ATM switch according to claim 18, wherein the schedule computation means performs a function such that, upon the cancellation of the setting of an ATM line from the elements in the cell read sequence management table, if another ATM line having a smaller PCR value than said ATM line is in the state of being set to a position behind the position to which the said TAM line has been set, the set position of said another ATM line is moved to the position from which the setting of said ATM line has been cancelled.

23. The ATM switch according to claim 18, wherein the schedule computation means performs a function such that, upon the cancellation of the setting of an ATM line from the elements in the cell read sequence management table, if other ATM lines having a smaller PCR value than said ATM line are in the state of being set to positions behind the position to which the said ATM line has been set, the set position of one ATM line, which has the largest PCR value in said other ATM lines and is located in the rearmost position of said other ATM lines, is moved to the position from which the setting of said ATM line has been cancelled.

REMARKS

The amendment avoids multiple dependent claim language and does not introduce new matter.

Please proceed to examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Whitham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Whitham" clearly distinguishable.

Michael E. Whitham

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Marked-Up Version of the Claims

Claim 4 (once amended). The scheduling system according to claim 2[or 3], wherein the number of slots in the time slot and the PCR value of each of the lines each are a value obtained by raising "2" to the nth power, wherein n is a non-negative integer.

Claim 6 (once amended). The scheduling system according to [any one of claims 2 to 5] claim 2, wherein the schedule computation means performs a function such that, upon the cancellation of the setting of a line from the elements in the cell read sequence management table, if another line having a smaller PCR value than said line is in the state of being set to a position behind the position to which the said line has been set, the set position of said another line is moved to the position from which the setting of said line has been cancelled.

Claim 7 (once amended). The scheduling system according to [any one of claims 2 to 5] claim 2, wherein the schedule computation means performs a function such that, upon the cancellation of the setting of a line from the elements in the cell read sequence management table, if other lines having a smaller PCR value than said line are in the state of being set to positions behind the position to which said line has been set, the set position of one line, which has the largest PCR value in said other lines and is located in the rearmost position of said other lines, is moved to the position from which the setting of said line has been cancelled.

Claim 8 (once amended). The scheduling system according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein said line is an ATM line.

Claim 12 (once amended). The scheduling method according to claim 10 [or 11], wherein the number of slots in the time slot and the PCR value of each of the lines each are a value obtained by raising "2" to the nth power, wherein n is a non-negative integer.

Claim 14 (once amended). The scheduling method according to [any one of claims 10 to 13,] claim 10 wherein, upon the cancellation of the setting of a line from the elements in the cell read sequence management table, if another line having a smaller PCR value than said line is in the state of being set to a position behind the position to which the said line has been set, the set position of said another line is moved to the position from which setting of said line has been cancelled.

Claim 15 (once amended). The scheduling method according to [any one of claims 10 to 13] claim 10 wherein, upon the cancellation of the setting of a line from the elements in the cell read sequence management table, if other lines having a smaller PCR value than said line are in the state of being set to positions behind the position to which the said line has been set, the set position of one line, which has the largest PCR value in said other lines and is located in the rearmost position of said other lines, is moved to the position from which the setting of said line has been cancelled.

Claim 16 (once amended). The scheduling method according to [any one of claims 9 to 15] claim 9, wherein said line is an [AMT] ATM line.

Claim 20 (once amended). The ATM switch according to claim 18 [or 19], wherein the number of slots in the time slot and the PCR value of each of the ATM lines each are a value obtained by raising "2" to the nth power, wherein n is a non-negative integer.

Claim 22 (once amended). The ATM switch according to [any one of claims 18 to 21] claim 18, wherein the schedule computation means performs a function such that, upon the cancellation of the setting of an ATM line from the elements in the cell read sequence management table, if another ATM line having a smaller PCR value than said ATM line is in the state of being set to a position behind the position to which the said ATM line has been set, the set position of said another ATM line is moved to the

position from which the setting of said ATM line has been cancelled.

23. The ATM switch according to [any one of claims 18 to 21] claim 18, wherein the schedule computation means performs a function such that, upon the cancellation of the setting of an ATM line from the elements in the cell read sequence management table, if other ATM lines having a smaller PCR value than said ATM line are in the state of being set to positions behind the position to which the said ATM line has been set, the set position of one ATM line, which has the largest PCR value in said other ATM lines and is located in the rearmost position of said other ATM lines, is moved to the position from which the setting of said ATM line has been cancelled.